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UM CARILLON MAY RING AGAIN

By Cathy Brown
UM Information Services

MISSOULA--

One of the most unique sounds in the Northwest--the music of the carillon on the University of Montana campus in Missoula--is seldom heard. In fact, it's been about a year since anyone even played the carillon.

The 47 bells, located in the tower of Main Hall, are played by pushing the wooden keys (called batons) of the clavier located beneath the bells. But according to Dr. John Ellis, assistant professor of music at UM, the carillon is almost impossible to play because it has deteriorated over the years due to the ravages of the weather.

The carillon has been difficult to play for about 10 years, but Dr. Richard C. Bowers, UM president, announced that the carillon renovation project will begin soon. Bowers said he hopes the bells will be ringing again by commencement exercises on June 12th.

Bowers, a University of Michigan graduate, said he was "enamored" by the sounds of the carillon on his alma mater's campus. He discovered that two other University of Michigan graduates--Robert Kiley, dean of the UM School of Fine Arts and Ellis--were among those interested in the restoration of the UM carillon, so Bowers initiated a project to raise funds for the carillon's renovation.

With the help of Thomas J. Collins, director of the UM Foundation, about \$21,000 was raised for the renovation project through donations to the Foundation.

Bowers said money from the Coffee Memorial Fund will be used for the restoration project with the approval of the Coffee family. / The fund was established in memory of Oakley Coffee, an alumnus of the University and the first full-time director of the UM Foundation.

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Other major contributors to the carillon project include Western Montana Bank of Missoula, and William Gallagher, chairman of the board of the Westmont Tractor Co., who received the bachelor of arts degree in business and economics in 1925 from UM and has served as a Foundation trustee since 1966.

Money donated by Mrs. Jean Galusha, Excelsior, Minn., will also help finance the renovation project, Bowers said. Mrs. Galusha is the widow of Hugh Galusha Jr., a former UM alumnus and Foundation trustee who was president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis until his death in 1971.

The I.T. Verdin Company, headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio, has been contracted to restore the carillon, according to Kiley.

"It's the only American company that does carillon restorations," Kiley said, "and the firm would only do the job if the carillon could be restored to first-class order."

A new clavier will be built in Cincinnati according to the standards set by the American Association of Carillonneurs to replace the old one.

Wires running from the clavier to the bells and the mounting bolts on the bells will be replaced and the bells will be inspected for wear, Kiley said.

UM Physical Plant Department workers will be instructed by I.T. Verdin Company representatives and will be able to help with the carillon renovation and upkeep.

Ellis, who is a member of the Guild of Carillonneurs in North America, said he will probably offer a course in carillon studies next year.

The carillon weighs 12 tons and the 47 tuned bells are made of pure bronze. The bells, clavier and a practice clavier were all donated as memorials by individuals and groups through the UM Foundation. Each bears an inscription of its dedication and there are accompanying memorial plaques hung on the wall of the entrance way to Main Hall.

The bells were cast in the Netherlands by the Van Bergen Bell Foundry and installed at UM in 1953.